

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12087

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: VINS' DAUGHTERS REFUSED EXIT PERMISSION

REF: MOSCOW 09817

1. ON MAY 26, 1978, NADEZHDA IVANOVNA VINS, WIFE OF IMPRISONED UKRAINIAN BAPTIST LEADER GEORGIY VINS AND MOTHER OF PETER VINS, MEMBER OF KIEV HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP ARRESTED FEBRUARY 1978, TOLD KIEV ADVANCE PARTY HER TWO DAUGHTERS HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE TO CANADA BY KIEV OVIR ON MAY 22. THE BASIS FOR REFUSAL WAS AUTHORITIES' WISH "NOT TO DIVIDE FAMILIES". THUS, SINCE APPLICANTS' PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTER ARE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND NEAREST RELATIVE IN CANADA IS ONLY COUSIN, THE REFUSAL WAS PRESENTED AS IN KEEPING WITH HELSINKI ACCORDS. MRS. VINS SAID SHE FELT REFUSAL WAS CRUEL DISTORTION OF HELSINKI AGREEMENTS. SHE SAID SHE PLANNED TO TAKE HER CASE TO USSR SUPREME COURT IN MOSCOW AND TO REQUEST RELEASE OF HER HUSBAND AND SON IN ORDER THAT THE WHOLE FAMILY MIGHT EMIGRATE.

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2. COMMENTING ON HER SON'S SITUATION, MRS. VINS CALLED HIS PRISON CAMP THE WORST IN THE UKRAINE. WHILE VISITATION RIGHTS ARE AFFORDED AND MAIL CAN BE RECEIVED, THE PRISONERS ARE EMPLOYED IN THE VERY HARD LABOR OF BREAKING UP ROCKS. FURTHER, ON HIS FIRST DAY IN CAMP, PETER WAS SEVERELY BEATEN BY GUARDS FOR A MINOR INFRAC-TION. MRS. VINS FELT IT WAS FORTUNATE PETER HAD ONLY

A RELATIVELY SHORT SENTENCE TO SERVE THERE (RELEASE SCHEDULED IN FEB 1979). SHE DID NOT BELIEVE HE COULD MAINTAIN HIS HEALTH FOR A LONGER SENTENCE.

3. COMMENT: THE AUTHORITIES' REFUSAL TO APPROVE EMIGRATION OF THE OLDER VINS DAUGHTERS IS CONTRARY TO EARLIER ASSURANCES TO THE FAMILY THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO GO, AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, INCLUDING SON PETR AND FATHER GEORGIY, AS SOON AS LATTER WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON. MATLOCK

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